

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed are compositions comprising a novel cell-death protecting protein, sentrin-1, and the gene which encodes it. Also disclosed are methods of making and using sentrin polypeptides and nucleic acid segments in various diagnostic and pharmaceutical applications. In a preferred embodiment, overexpression of sentrin-1 confers protection against both anti-Fas/APO-1 and TNF-induced apoptosis.